

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2005, please consider the following remarks.

In the Office Action issued August 25, 2005, the specification was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brittan et al. ("Brittan," U.S. Patent No. 6,199,078). Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §104(a) as being unpatentable Brittan and Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,847). Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-8 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, according to claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, is not anticipated by Brittan. Brittan discloses a method and system for calculating values for fields interrelated by circular formulas in a data network is described. The system contains a first calculator for which a first field serves as an input value and a second field serves as an output and a second calculator for which the second field serves as an input value and the first field serves as an output. A conflict checker determines whether a circular conflict exists after input of the input value into the first field or the second field, and a conflict resolver resolves the conflict by suppressing the input value in the first field or second field upon determination of the circular conflict. These features are taught in relationship to a spreadsheet application program. Brittan also discloses programming methods and processing systems for use in connection with a spreadsheet application program having a plurality of fields capable of storing a plurality of values.

By comparison, the present invention, for example according to amended claim 1, relates to a database that, in addition to having a plurality of fields capable of storing a plurality of values, also comprises a structure imposed upon said values. Brittan discloses a spreadsheet that contains fields; however, the only relational structure imposed upon said fields is in equations inputted by a user, and not by any inherent characteristic of the spreadsheet. Further, the present invention, for example according to claim 1, includes the display of information on user command, a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Brittan. Thus, the present invention, according to amended claim 1, and claim 5, which is similar, and according to claims 3 and 7, which depend respectively therefrom, is not anticipated by Brittan.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention according to claims 4 and 8 is not obvious over the combination of Brittan and Johnson. The combination of Brittan and Johnson still does not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, as recited by claims 1 and 5, which are not disclosed by Brittan alone. Since claims 4 and 8 depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, this means that the combination of Brittan and Johnson does not disclose all of the claimed features recited by claims 4 and 8. Thus, claims 4 and 8 are not obvious in view of the combination of Brittan and Johnson.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is allowable over the references relied upon in the Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

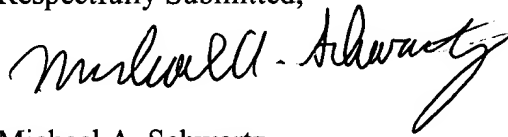
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19111.0056).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Schwartz", written in a cursive style.

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Dated: November 9, 2005

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